

Make no mistake, this job is not easy. The people of Iraq and Afghanistan lived under brutal regimes for decades. There is much to be done, and our Armed Forces continue to do their jobs well.

Mr. Speaker, the young people who have spearheaded Operation Hometown Gratitude, as well as the sponsors who seeded this work, are not just sending care packages and supplies. By their support and their effort, they are displaying what Harry Truman meant by "unbeatable determination" and playing a major part in doing the job at hand.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ON THE CRISIS SITUATION IN DARFUR

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of Mr. DEFAZIO.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to commend Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey and all of those who have demonstrated tremendous leadership on this issue.

I have been told time and time again that the only way that evil can triumph is when good people do nothing, and I believe it was Dante who suggested that the hottest places in hell are reserved for those who declare neutrality and do nothing in times of great crisis.

We have all heard of the atrocities that are continuously being heaped upon the people in the Sudan. It is now time for us to act, and to act convincingly. We have to ask ourselves the question, if not us, then who? If not now, then when?

I am here tonight to help sound the alarm once again on genocide in the Sudan. There is no room for neutrality in the face of the crimes being committed there each day. Amnesty International has renewed its charge that the international community is not doing enough to protect women in the Darfur region and the refugee camps in Chad where mass rape is being used as a weapon.

Since 1983, more than 2 million black civilians have died during the civil war in the south Sudan. That struggle was especially brutal for the civilian population. Slave raids resulted in the enslavement of women and children, gang rape, ethnic cleansing and the imposition of famine conditions for hundreds of thousands of people.

On October 21, 2002, the President signed the Sudan Peace Act, which

stated in part that the acts of the Government of Sudan constitute genocide as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. That bill requires President Bush to certify every 6 months that the government in Khartoum is negotiating in good faith for an end to the civil war. According to some sources, we may be close to a framework for peace in that region.

Mr. Speaker, only a short time ago we paused here to mark the 10th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, where more than 800,000 people died while the world watched and did nothing. Once again, genocide has unfolded before us, and those who have taken note have expressed their horror at what we have seen. But where is the public outcry? Where are the front page pictures? Where is the response of our government on behalf of the American people? I can tell you there has been some, but there has not been nearly enough.

So I join with my colleagues here this evening to call for the unequivocal, absolute declaration that genocide in the Sudan must end, and that it must end now. Not next year, not next month, but tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OSBORNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ADDRESSING THE MEDICARE PART D DOUGHNUT HOLE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Nebraska.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we heard a lot last spring about the voluntary Part D prescription drug program that seniors had available to them for the first time. We haven't heard much about it recently, but it is important to revisit the concept because of two aspects.

One is the open enrollment period, which is going to begin the middle of November and run through the end of the year; and the other is to address the fact that some seniors are coming upon what is called the coverage gap. They have received enough help in the prescription drug program, and they have come into a period of spending where they are expected to cover the whole cost of their prescription drug components until they get up to a catastrophic level, after which they will only be responsible for 5 percent of their drug expenditures.

Mr. Speaker, last spring when we talked about the Medicare prescription drug program back home, I would tell

my constituents to focus on cost, coverage and convenience. If cost is your biggest driver, then look for the plan that has the lowest cost. That is pretty easy to do if you have got a computer and can go to Medicare.gov and scroll through the various computer screens of the plans out there.

In my State in Texas, there were some 48 different plans and combinations of plans that were available, but it is pretty easy to pick out the ones that are the lowest cost. If cost was the main driver, that is what I would encourage people to do, and then focus in on those three or four that were the lowest-cost plans.

If coverage was the main driver, there was a column devoted to coverage as well. You can certainly pick and choose from plans that covered 95, 98 percent or even 100 percent of the drugs in the Medicare formula.

Finally, convenience. If you want to use mail order, make sure that the program that you are looking at conforms to that expectation. If you want to use the Wal-Mart pharmacy, if you want to use the mom-and-pop drugstore down on the corner, make certain that that dispensing entity is available on the drug plan.

But by focusing on cost, coverage and convenience, then this rather daunting prospect of looking at 48 different drug plans became a whole lot easier.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, when we passed the Medicare drug prescription program, the idea was with the finite number of dollars we had available we were going to cover the people most in need. That meant the people who had the most trouble with illness, who were on the most medications, and those people who were the least well off. The sickest and the poorest received the greatest amount of help from the Medicare prescription drug program. And that indeed has been borne out. But of necessity, those of us who are more well off or perhaps not as ill will find ourselves exposed to some expenditure for prescription drugs in the so-called coverage gap.

Well, 92 percent of the people who signed up for Medicare are not affected by the coverage gap. That is, 45 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries will be eligible. Some fall into a category where they are eligible for low-income subsidies and therefore not affected by the gap. They have annual drug expenditures well below the \$2,250 level and will never reach the gap, or they have chosen an enhanced Part D plan that provides some coverage in the coverage gap. An additional 47 percent have prescription drug coverage from plans outside of Part D, government plans, veterans plans or another Federal program, or an employer-sponsored program. Or there are those 9 percent who just said, I don't get sick, I don't need drugs, I don't take drugs, and I am not going to sign up. Forty-seven percent of Americans fall into that group. So 92 percent of people will never be affected by the coverage gap.

But of those 8 percent who are, and this is the most important part, they need to concentrate on one of the enhanced plans when the open enrollment period comes up on the 15th of November.

Every Medicare beneficiary, every single Medicare beneficiary, 100 percent are covered for catastrophic.

What I would like to do with the balance of the time is to focus on the individuals who would benefit from being on an enhanced drug program.

Mr. Speaker, I have just taken a random page from some of the plans that are available in my State of Texas. This is what will appear on someone's computer screen. You have the company name, the plan name, monthly drug premium, the annual deductible, the cost-sharing coverage in the gap, the formulary percentage of drugs covered, and a checkmark for whether or not someone is enrolled in that plan.

If the plan you are in leaves you exposed in the coverage gap, I encourage people to go back to the computer screen or have their grandchild go to the computer for them and scroll through the plans available.

If you look down, Mr. Speaker, you will find that some of the plans, albeit they are more expensive from the standpoint of the monthly premium, but look, here is one with a zero dollar annual deductible. Yes, it has some cost sharing, between \$2 and \$40. Coverage in the gap, yes. Generic only, but if a person is on a blood pressure medicine, cholesterol-lowering medication or reflux medication, this may be a very valuable plan. And then the one right below it, again no deductible, but generic and branded.

This is the type of coverage someone needs to focus on if they found themselves having the expenditures in the so-called coverage gap.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ADDRESSING THE CRISIS IN DARFUR

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from New Jersey.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I want to start by thanking my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative DANNY DAVIS, who has already spoken, and the other members of the Congressional Black Caucus who are here this evening to shed more light on what is going on in the Sudan and to challenge our other

Members of Congress and our administration to take action in this dire situation.

Many people, when they saw the movie *Hotel Rwanda*, believed that it was a fictional movie. Unfortunately, the actions, the things that were depicted in that movie, were not fictional at all. It is true that actors and actresses played the roles, but it depicted something that had actually transpired in our world, which has been described by Representative DANNY DAVIS as over 850,000 people killed through acts of genocide.

□ 1915

Unfortunately, that occurred with our United States Government and people around the world knowing that genocide was taking place in Rwanda and not taking any action to do anything about it.

Well, we are now facing a similar situation in the Sudan. We are up now to what is estimated to be 450,000 people having been killed by official governmental actions, genocide. We have declared it to be genocide. Our government has declared it to be genocide. And in addition to the 450,000 people who have been killed, over 2 million people have been displaced from their home communities, their villages, because they are fearful of staying in their communities lest they be killed by genocide also. And the beat goes on daily.

Mr. Speaker, this is something that must stop. It is inhumane and it is something that our country and people around the world should not continue to tolerate.

We visited, a number of us, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and others, visited the Sudan and actually went into the displaced persons camps where we found conditions were horrible, where we found disproportionately women and children, because the men had stayed behind to fight, and most of them had been the victims of the killings and genocide. So we are going to have a situation where more and more and more children are going to be without parents if we do not act, and that is unacceptable.

The African Union troops have gone in to try to stabilize the situation, but we met with the African Union troops and their resources are depleted and they are not mobile enough. Even when they know another act of genocide is about to occur, they cannot move fast enough to the location where they know it is going to happen to prevent it from happening.

And so we have made it clear that the only way this can be resolved is for United Nations troops to be put into that area to stop the genocide that is going on.

Now, let me tell you what happened. The U.N. met and a resolution was passed, and still the United Nations troops are not in Sudan. The U.N. met and a resolution was passed authorizing troops to go into Lebanon, and the U.N. troops are already in Lebanon.

So there is something going on here, Mr. Speaker, that we need to expose to the world. We cannot distinguish between folks just because they are in Africa as opposed to the Middle East. We have got to take action. We call on our Congress and our administration and people around the world to do so this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DARFUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the world is in total crisis. The conflict and the devastation in the Darfur region of Sudan is abominable. I call on the President of the United States, who named Andrew Natsios at the U.N. to be the Special Envoy, that we put the full might and credibility of what we have left in our country behind the genocide that is taking place in Darfur.

You have heard the numbers. Atrocities, government-sponsored terrorism, where the President of Sudan does not even acknowledge not only the U.N. forces, not only the African coalition that is there to help secure his people, but that genocide and the killings really exist.

I was on one of the delegations that went to Sudan earlier this year in a bipartisan, bicameral visit. It was outrageous what we saw. Yet, today, as the heightened conflict, killings, this government in Khartoum is now dropping bombs on the civilian population in the refugee camps. Just think about it. They have run them out of their villages. They have burned their villages. They have raped the women. They killed the men and had the children in total chaos and asking for help.

We are the most powerful Nation in the world today. We say that all the time. We must rise up to save the young children, the women, and the men for the sake of their own country.

President al-Bashir has turned his head on it. The Janjaweed, men on horses who ride herd on those villages, kill people, innocent civilians, it could be you, but you are living in another country.

I am asking tonight that we recognize the genocide, the horrific conditions that are going on in Darfur, which is in the southwest region of Sudan. Sudan is the largest country geographically in Africa. It has black Africans, African Arabs and others in the country.

Khartoum in the northern part of the country is where the seat of government is. They just recently signed a